

THE LAMP



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PROTECTING OUR SILENT SENTINELS

It's easy to take something for granted when you see it every day.

We drive by row after row of them, but how often do we think about utility poles? These silent sentinels—which are often under attack in our com-

munity—are critical to Indian Electric Cooperative's (IEC) mission of delivering safe, reliable, and affordable power.

Electric cooperatives, like IEC, own and maintain more than 2.5 million miles of distribution lines stretching across two-thirds of America. Some of these lines can be found underground, but for the most part they stretch above

ground, running along on roadsides and doggedly climbing through harsh terrain to deliver power to homes.

Co-ops rely on more than 41 million utility poles to deliver power, and these towering supporters of electric lines are under constant attack from the elements—storms, woodpeckers, insects, moisture, and harsh soils. People play a part in pole erosion too.

How many times have we driven by a pole and noticed yard sale signs or ads tacked to the base of the pole? It's illegal to attach unauthorized items to poles. When a lineworker is responding to an outage and climbs a pole, abandoned nails or tacks can rip through protective gloves leaving the lineworker potentially exposed to thousands of volts of energy. Even after the nails are removed, the leftover holes provide easy entry for bugs and water causing a pole that should have lasted four decades or more to weaken much faster.

We need your help. If you notice anyone trying to attach something to a utility pole, let them know it's dangerous and against the law. Whenever we see an illegal attachment—whether it's a satellite dish, a birdhouse, a basketball hoop, deer stand, or anything else—our employees will remove it and are not responsible for any damage caused to the unauthorized item.

Thanks for your help as we work together to prolong the lifespan of these silent sentinels that provide us with safe, reliable, and affordable electric service. ♦

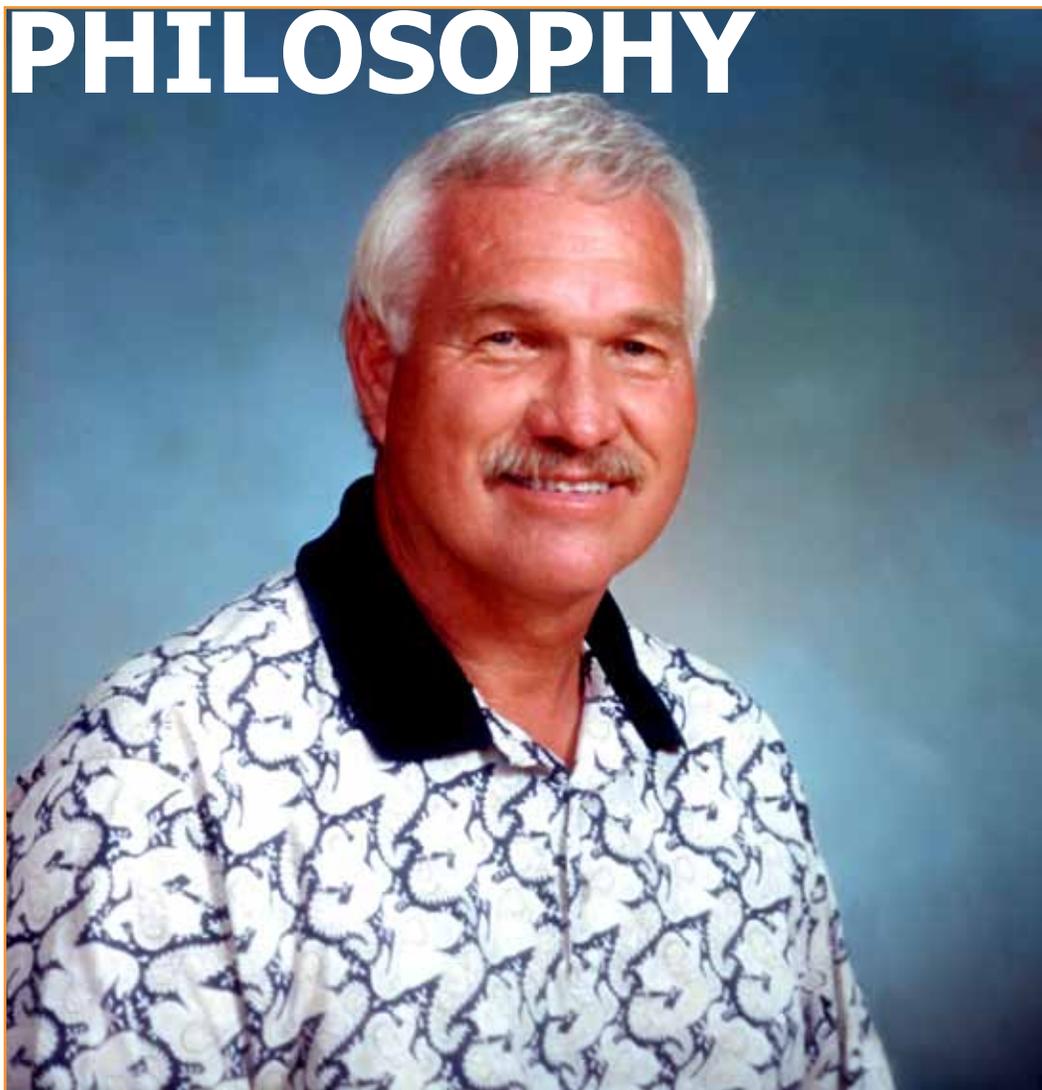


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A common view of 2.5 million miles of power lines stretching across two-thirds of America.

GOOD BUSINESS SENSE IS A POWERFUL

PHILOSOPHY



By C.L. Harmon

years later.

He retired at age 47. He missed his goal by two years. He was shooting for 45. He still works part time at his company, Custo-Fab in Sand Springs but admits that he mostly just piddles on his ranch that he shares with nine dogs, 15 cats, 500 cows, 50 chickens, 40 guineas and “a bunch of sorry horses.” Oh and there's a baby squirrel that he saved too. He and his wife Sharon have a difficult time turning away stray animals, so they have become collectors of these unfortunate creatures.

He does however, emerge from the ranch now and then to add his two cents as a trustee. His philosophies appear to be rooted in that time he spent on the farm. He believes that thinking is simply not enough. One must think and do at the same time; the way a farmer must in order to produce a plentiful crop. In fact, this is how he became involved with the board of trustees in the first place.

“My reasons for joining the board are my kids, my family and my companies which all rely on the service IEC provides,” he said. Instead of just thinking about ideas

“I used to tell my students to work 25 hours in 24 hours,” said Berry Keeler. Keeler is the latest IEC trustee to be featured. If anyone knows a secret to a formula for success, it's him. Berry Keeler treated me as though we had been friends for years during our time spent in his office/man cave located on his ranch in Fairfax. We talked about his service as an IEC board trustee and his ideas to help keep it a

One must think and do at the same time; the way a farmer must in order to produce a plentiful crop.

successful functioning cooperative.

In order to get an understanding of his philosophies, he told me a bit of history about how he went from a poor farm boy who lost his father and the farm at age 14, to a high school ag-teacher, to running a multimillion dollar company. After teaching high school, he went to work for Custo-Fab as shop labor and purchased the company 10

that could better IEC, Keeler decided to think and do when fellow board trustee Mike Spradling, who knew him from Sand Springs, asked him to become a trustee.

One of the strongest ideas he brings to the board is the belief that the board works for the “boss” who are the members of IEC. It's a very interesting concept coming from a man who is accustomed to being the boss and philosophy probably rooted in his childhood. Every farmer knows that though he may own the land, but he works for the earth which holds his crops.

His sense of humor is another positive he brings to the table. He knows that what he and his fellow trustees do is an important service and one that can be stressful when faced with the many challenges of keeping the power on at an affordable rate for members. But being able to laugh and poke a little good natured fun has been a healthy and successful philosophy for him in both his business and personal life...even at himself.

In addition, giving credit where it is due is another part of his philosophy. “I give props to Ron Barber, the attorney for IEC, who looks at the co-op as a business and also to Jack [Clinkscale] who is a good manager. He is an accountant first and a manager second.” Keeler said.

He also gives major

props to the IEC staff. He gave an example of their dedication to members when he told about a time he lost some buildings to a tornado. When he went to check out the damage, he realized that IEC crews had been out all night replacing poles in order to restore power to members.

“These guys put up 40 poles during the night. People need to realize how good IEC crews are. They don't even ask for recognition, they are just doing their job. They need a salute,” he said. He added that even as a trustee, he was unaware as to how good these crews are at their job and is only aware of their dedication because he just happened to be out there during the restoration and spoke with them.

Keeler also spoke about economics, the recession and his trips to Washington to help stop a carbon tax, which could greatly increase the cost of electricity for members.

He believes that he brings an analytical view of business and economics to the board. He added that the board is a diverse one where everyone brings something unique and beneficial to IEC.

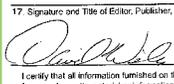
Another aspect that he feels is very important and brings to the table is what he has learned from his extensive travels to places such as China, Russia and Europe where people face many of the same issues associated with energy.

He hopes to continue to be a part of the board as long as his contributions are beneficial. ♦

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Recipe: Chocolate Cake

c/o Susie Crockett

1 stick margarine
4 Tbsp Cocoa
½ cup shortening
½ cup water
2 cups sugar
2 cups flour
2 eggs
1 tsp vanilla
1 cup buttermilk
1 tsp Baking Soda

Combine Margarine, cocoa, shortening & water in sauce pan.

Bring to boil. Pour over sifted sugar & flour. Add eggs, vanilla & soda dissolved in buttermilk.

Bake in ungreased 13x9" pan at 375° for 25 - 30 minutes.

Let stand until cool.

Recipe: Icing

1 stick margarine
4 Tbsp cocoa
6 Tbsp milk
1 Box powdered sugar
1 tsp vanilla
1 cup chopped pecans

Melt Margarine with cocoa & milk.

Beat in powdered sugar & vanilla. Sprinkle top with chopped pecans.